

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reeder, US 5,852,812; claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Boardman et al., US 6,456,986 ("Boardman") in view of Rubin et al., US 6,078,897 ("Rubin"); claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Boardman in view of Carter, US 6,553,350, in further view of Rubin; and claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reeder in view of Boardman. Applicant respectfully traverses those rejections for the reasons stated below.

Applicant initially notes that in the Office Action of 07/05/05, the Office rejected claims 1-3 using exactly the same reasons as the Office used in the Office Action of 03/10/05. (Actually, the Office copies the 03/10/05 Office Action.) However, in the Amendment of 05/10/2005, Applicant amended claim 1 by adding additional features in response to the 03/10 Office Action. By literally copying the 03/10 Office Action, the Office fails to address the added features of claim 1. In addition, with respect to claim 2, in the Amendment of 5/10, Applicant argued about the feature of "change point." The Office, however, by literally copying the 03/10 Office Action, does not address this feature in the present rejection of claim 2. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office provide specific and meaningful citations of the prior art in the rejections to facilitate mutual understanding and smooth

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communication, especially as Applicant has already gone through a round of prosecution and has filed an RCE.

With regard to claim 4, Applicant submits that Reeder does not disclose each and every claimed feature. Specifically, for example, Reeder does not disclose, *inter alia*, "associating a set of rules with each service type provided by a service provider[.]" (Claim 4). Reeder discloses determining a price rule. (Col. 15, lines 33-34). However, in Reeder, the price rule is determined based on the service ID, event ID and the customer profile. (Col. 15, lines 30-31; see also col. 15, lines 52-53, "[l]ook up surcharge pricing rule and discount pricing rule based on event id, service id, currency and subscription plan.") That is, in Reeder, the price rule is determined using a table, the event id, service id, currency and subscription plan being parameters of the table. In Reeder, the price rule is not associated with each service type. Actually, the Reeder system is exactly the type of prior art that the current invention specifically identifies as deficient and successfully overcomes. (See the specification of the current application at pages 3-4.) In sharp contrast, the claimed invention includes, *inter alia*, "associating a set of rules with each service type provided by a service provider[.]" In view of the foregoing, Reeder does not anticipate the current invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 1 because Boardman and/or Rubin fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claim. For instance, claim 1 recites a "calculation means, which, for each different type of customer service provided to a customer, identifies the rule set associated with the type of customer service, and calculates charges for each event belonging to the type of customer service based on the associated rule set." In other words, the invention according to claim 1 calculates charges for events based on what type of service the

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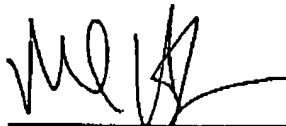
event belongs to. Moreover, each type of service is associated with a rule set that is utilized to calculate charges for the events belonging to the given type of service. This differs from Boardman, which simply applies a calculation process (RAS Engine process 98) to each event, regardless of the event's service type (see, e.g., column 5). Boardman does not categorize events by service type before it "rates" them. Boardman simply rates each event as they are entered. Thus, the RAS Engine process 98 must determine what business rules apply on an event by event basis. Conversely, the present invention knows what rules to apply ahead of time, since it *calculates charges for each event belonging to the given type of customer service*. Robin does not overcome this deficiency of Boardman.

With regard to claim 2, Applicant submits that none of the prior art references teach or suggest "change point identifiers." Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 2 is likewise in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3, 5 and 6 are believed allowable for the reasons discussed herein, as well as for their own additional features.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 10/3/05

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